

**To:** Fritz, Matthew[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov]; Bluhm, Kate[Bluhm.Kate@epa.gov]; Mathew, Jacklyn[Mathew.Jacklyn@epa.gov]; Cobbs, Chris[Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov]  
**From:** Herckis, Arian  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 3:08:47 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Can I notify Congressionals Now about Press Advisory?

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Reynolds, Thomas" <Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 9:06:37 AM MDT  
**To:** "Herckis, Arian" <Herckis.Arian@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Can I notify Congressionals Now about Press Advisory?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 8:44:54 AM MDT  
**To:** "Russo, Rebecca" <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Smith, Paula" <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>, "Reynolds, Thomas" <Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov>, "McGrath, Shaun" <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>, "Hestmark, Martin" <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Can I notify Congressionals Now about Press Advisory?

Thanks! Also I think the Southern Ute tribe will want to send someone to the locals meeting. R8 tribe lead will help with outreach.

Melissa Harrison  
Press Secretary  
EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:14 AM, Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov> wrote:

I have an email list for locals and I will send it to them at the same time of the press release.

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

**From:** Harrison, Melissa

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:05 AM

**To:** Russo, Rebecca

**Cc:** Distefano, Nichole

**Subject:** Re: Can I notify Congressionals Now about Press Advisory?

I'm good as long as Nichole is. Also will you be helping notify local officials on timing for their meeting? The City of Durango was wondering about timing. Contact is Matt Holden at [holdenmj@ci.durango.co.us](mailto:holdenmj@ci.durango.co.us)

Thanks!

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:58 AM, Russo, Rebecca <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Melissa,

Can I begin notifying Congressional offices now per Liz's note below? I'd rather give 30 minutes head-up before press advisory goes out than do it at the same time, but I will await your direction.

Thanks,

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

**From:** Purchia, Liz

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:31 AM

**To:** Harrison, Melissa; Distefano, Nichole

**Cc:** Gray, David; McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; StClair, Christie; Zito, Kelly; Reynolds, Thomas; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin; Smith, Paula; Vaught, Laura; Lee, Monica

**Subject:** RE: Let's cancel daily presser and congressional call tomorrow

Advisory for the press availability is below.

We would like to send this out at 8:30AM MT/10:30 AM ET to press. We have a master list of media interested in the response we're maintaining at HQ.

JIC and Regions 6/9 should advise at that time if possible.

I think congressional notifies can begin now

**Contact:**

**Christie St. Clair**, [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)

**For Immediate Release**

**Aug. 12, 2015**

**2:00 PM MDT: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Holding  
Media Availability in Durango, CO**

**DURANGO, CO** - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will visit Durango, CO today to inspect response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King mine, and meet with state, local and tribal officials and community members. McCarthy will hold a media availability in Durango for credentialed news media only about the response. Tomorrow, Administrator McCarthy will visit the response efforts in Farmington, NM. More details about the visit will be released as they become available.

**WHEN:** 2:00 PM MTN

**WHO:** EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

**WHAT:** Administrator McCarthy media availability on the unified response to the Gold King Mine incident.

**WHERE:** Outside Gold King Mine Unified Command Center  
2500 Main. Ave.  
Durango, CO 81301

**NOTE:** The media availability in Durango will take the place of today's media conference call.

###

-----Original Message-----

From: Harrison, Melissa

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:02 AM

To: Distefano, Nichole

Cc: Gray, David; Purchia, Liz; McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; StClair, Christie; Zito, Kelly; Reynolds, Thomas; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin; Smith, Paula; Vaught, Laura; Lee, Monica

Subject: Re: Let's cancel daily presser and congressional call tomorrow

Copy that.

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

> On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:48 AM, Distefano, Nichole  
<DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov> wrote:

>

> No we just need to know so we can tee off congressional notifs as well

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:47 AM, Harrison, Melissa  
<Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

>>

>> We need to run it through approvals. Earliest would be 9 am local.  
Let me know if you need us to hold for any reason.

>>

>> Melissa Harrison

>> Press Secretary

>> EPA

>> Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

>>

>>

>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:37 AM, Distefano, Nichole  
<[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>

>>> Do we have an update on timing for the advisory?

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:33 AM, Harrison, Melissa  
<[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Will do. Christie will finalize.

>>>>

>>>> Melissa Harrison

>>>> Press Secretary

>>>> EPA

>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>>>> [Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:33 AM, Gray, David  
<[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>> Please share with us so we can advise to our press list also.

>>>>> David

>>>>>

>>>>> -----Original Message-----

>>>>> From: Purchia, Liz

>>>>> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:01 AM

>>>>> To: Harrison, Melissa

>>>>> Cc: Distefano, Nichole; McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; StClair, Christie; Gray, David; Zito, Kelly; Reynolds, Thomas; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin; Smith, Paula; Vaught, Laura; Lee, Monica

>>>>> Subject: Re: Let's cancel daily presser and congressional call tomorrow

>>>>>

## **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

>>>>>

## **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

>>>>>

>>>>> We can mention that it will take the place of the press call.

>>>>>

>>>>> Liz Purchia

>>>>> U.S. EPA

>>>>> 202-564-6691

## **Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>>>>>



>>>>>

>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 11:29 PM, Harrison, Melissa  
<[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>> Totally fine.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

What time is HQ media advisory going out?

>>>>>

>>>>> Melissa Harrison

>>>>> Press Secretary

>>>>> EPA

>>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>>>>> [Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 9:28 PM, Distefano, Nichole  
<[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>>

>>>>>>

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Can we wait to cancel in the morning when we have a firmer  
grasp on the sched? When are you all planning to advise the press  
avail?

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>>

>>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 11:16 PM, Harrison, Melissa  
<[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Easiest decision all day!

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Let's get a media advisory out to press. David and Christie-  
can you guys work together?

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Nichole/Laura

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Melissa Harrison

>>>>>> Press Secretary

>>>>>> EPA

>>>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421

**Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>>>>>> [Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

>>>>>>

>>>>>>

>>>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 9:10 PM, McGrath, Shaun  
<[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov](mailto:McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> David is here with

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 9:00 PM, Card, Joan  
<[Card.Joan@epa.gov](mailto:Card.Joan@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> David should work with you to make that decision for the  
Area Command.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> Joan Card

>>>>>>> Senior Policy Advisor

>>>>>>> Region 8

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> Sent from my EPA iPhone

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> On Aug 11, 2015, at 8:53 PM, Harrison, Melissa  
<[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> Melissa Harrison

>>>>>>> Press Secretary

>>>>>>> EPA

>>>>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421

>>>>>>> **Personal Phone/Ex. 6**

>>>>>>>>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

>>>>>>>>>